

## *State reaches agreement to house Arizona inmates*

### **Media Contact:**

Department of Correction

Java Ahmed

(317) 234-1693

E-mail: [jahmed@doc.in.gov](mailto:jahmed@doc.in.gov)

"First we brought our own prisoners back and now this temporary arrangement using an expensive facility that sat empty for far too long will be used and the total number of Hoosiers hired to work there will exceed 500."

Governor Mitch Daniels

Indianapolis, Indiana - (March 12, 2007) - A one-year agreement has been reached between the state of Arizona and Indiana Department of Correction to authorize the transfer of Arizona inmates to the New Castle Correctional Facility in Henry County, Governor Mitch Daniels and Department of Correction Commissioner J. David Donahue said today. The agreement means that an additional 230 jobs will be created at the facility, making it the fourth largest employer in the county.

Up to 1,260 medium-security inmates from the Arizona Department of Correction (ADC) will be moved to New Castle Correctional Facility, in space that was built more than four years ago but has never been fully utilized for Indiana offenders. One hundred and four offenders arrived today and future movement will continue in weeks to come, until the facility has reached its optimal capacity.

The Indiana Department of Correction (DOC) will receive a flat per diem for each ADC offender housed at the facility to cover the cost of subcontracting for supervision and management, medical services, food services and dental services. This agreement is expected to generate approximately \$6.1 million in revenue for the state of Indiana over the next year.

"First we brought our own prisoners back and now this temporary arrangement using an expensive facility that sat empty for far too long will be used and the total number of Hoosiers hired to work there will exceed 500," said Governor Daniels.

The GEO Group, which manages the facility for the DOC, will supervise and manage the Arizona inmates, and provide them with rehabilitative programming. Food will be provided by Aramark, with medical care and dental care provided by CMS and Mid-America Dental, respectively. The contract can be terminated at any time, should Indiana need the space to house Indiana offenders.

"Prison overcrowding is a big problem and we are willing to accommodate fellow correctional

administrators by providing housing and programming solutions for offenders," said Commissioner J. David Donahue. "Facility staff are well-prepared for the arrival of additional offenders from Arizona."

"Corrections has a long and strong history of partnering with colleagues. This is a great opportunity for Arizona and Indiana to work together to protect our citizens," said Dora Schriro, director of the Arizona Department of Correction.

Each offender sent by Arizona will be required to meet the same medium-security classification as those sent to New Castle by Indiana's Department of Correction. The intergovernmental agreement states that medium to minimum security adult Arizona inmates will be sent to the facility. Offenders classified as high-risk offenders, sex offenders, or those with escape histories or recent history of prison disciplinary action can not be transferred to Indiana. Arizona offenders will be separated from the Indiana population by a fence or other barrier and the two populations will not be permitted to co-mingle.

Currently, there are 1,038 offenders housed in the 2,416-person capacity New Castle Correctional facility. The Department expects that 1,260 beds will house Arizona offenders will be needed by Indiana by the end of 2008.

In October 2006, the GEO Group had reached a similar agreement with California to house California offenders because of overcrowding. Because of litigation and few offender volunteers from California, that proposed contract was terminated by mutual agreement of both parties.

**Media Contact:**

Office of the Governor,  
Jane Jankowski  
317.232.1622

**Media Contact:**

Arizona Department of Correction,  
Katie Decker  
602.542.3133

**Related Stories**

- [North West Indiana Times](#)
- [FOX 11 Arizona](#)
- [KNXV-TV 15 Phoenix](#)
- [Forbes](#)
- [Inside Indiana Business](#)
- [Arizona Daily star](#)
- [Wabash Plain Dealer](#)

## About The Department of Correction

The Department employs over 8,000 employees and houses 24,000 adult and juveniles in 32 facilities, ranging from minimum to maximum custody, prison camps, juvenile facilities and work release centers. The Department's home page on the Internet can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/indcorrection>. The Department's Re-entry Site can be found: <http://www.reentry.in.gov>.